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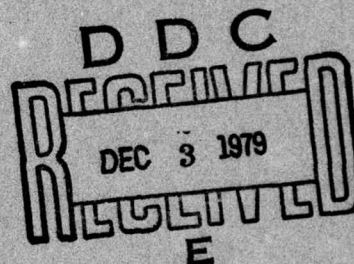
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# Absentee Voting Among Privately-Employed U.S. Citizens Living Overseas:

Findings From the 1978 Post-Election  
Voting Survey

by  
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May 1979

Prepared for:  
Department of Defense  
Office of the Assistant Secretary of  
Defense (Comptroller)  
Federal Voting Assistance Program

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REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE		READ INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE COMPLETING FORM
1. REPORT NUMBER FR-ED-79-3	2. GOVT ACCESSION NO.	3. RECIPIENT'S CATALOG NUMBER
4. TITLE (and Subtitle) 6 ABSENTEE VOTING AMONG PRIVATELY-EMPLOYED U.S. CITIZENS LIVING OVERSEAS: Findings from the 1978 Post-Election Voting Survey (Form B).		5. TYPE OF REPORT & PERIOD COVERED 9 Final Report - September 1978-April 1979
7. AUTHOR(s) 10 John A. Richards	6. PERFORMING ORG. REPORT NUMBER FR-ED-79-3 ✓	
8. CONTRACT OR GRANT NUMBER(s) 15 MDA 903-75-C-0128 ✓		9. PROGRAM ELEMENT, PROJECT, TASK AREA & WORK UNIT NUMBERS
9. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME AND ADDRESS Human Resources Research Organization ✓ 300 North Washington Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314		10. REPORT DATE 11 June 1979
11. CONTROLLING OFFICE NAME AND ADDRESS Federal Voting Assistance Program Office of the Asst. Sec. of Defense (Comptroller) The Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20301		12. NUMBER OF PAGES 65
14. MONITORING AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS (if different from Controlling Office) 12 66		15. SECURITY CLASS. (of this report) UNCLASSIFIED
16. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of this Report) Approved for public release; distribution unlimited		15a. DECLASSIFICATION/DOWNGRADING SCHEDULE
17. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of the abstract entered in Block 20, if different from Report) 14 HUMRR0-FR-ED-79-3		
18. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES Research performed in HumRR0 Eastern Division Alexandria, Virginia under Project VOTE		
19. KEY WORDS (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) Absentee voting : Federal Post Card Application Voting assistance Post-Election Voting Survey Voting information Federal Voting Assistance Program		
20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) This report describes the findings of the 1978 Post-Election Voting Survey (Form B). Questionnaires were mailed to a sample of privately-employed U.S. citizens who live overseas. The questions concerned absentee voting experiences in the 1978 general election, interest in the election, sources of information and assistance, and, for those who did not vote, reasons for not voting. Of the 1,677 persons who responded to the survey, only 5.4 percent cast ballots in the 1978 election. The most frequently cited reason for not voting was lack of information on absentee voting procedures. 405260 JMU		

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Absentee Voting Among Privately-Employed U.S. Citizens Living Overseas:  
Findings From the 1978 Post-Election Voting Survey (Form B)

- SUMMARY -

Scope and Objectives

Until recently, U.S. citizens living overseas on more than a temporary basis had no statutory guarantee that they could cast ballots in U.S. elections through the absentee process. Military personnel, members of the merchant marine, and other U.S. citizens living temporarily overseas were provided guarantees and assistance beginning in 1955 with the passage of the Federal Voting Assistance Act. But not until twenty years later were U.S. citizens living abroad on a long-term basis given similar assurances. The Overseas Citizens Voting Rights Act of 1975 provided the needed statutory support for these U.S. citizens. The 1955 Law and the 1975 Law complement each other, so that between them absentee voting is assured for virtually all overseas Americans.

The Federal Voting Assistance Program, created by the Federal Voting Assistance Act, provides voting assistance to all U.S. citizens living overseas. After each general election, the Presidential designee under the FVAA (currently the Secretary of Defense) is required to submit a report to the President and Congress on the activities of the Voting Assistance Program. One section of the report is to be devoted to statistical data on absentee voting. A survey of privately-employed U.S. citizens living overseas (the 1978 Post-Election Voting Survey-Form B) was conducted after the 1978 general election to provide a portion of the required data. This report contains the findings of that survey. A companion volume contains the results of two related surveys--a survey of absentee voting among military personnel and Federal civilian employees (the 1978 Post-Election Voting Survey-Form A) and a survey of military unit voting officers.

Approach

The Form B questionnaire was distributed to a stratified random sample of 7,500 (actually, 6,988 due to deletions from the original sample) privately-employed U.S. citizens living outside the United States. The sample was stratified by country. Proportionate sampling was employed (that is, the number of persons surveyed in a given country was geared to the proportion of U.S. citizens overseas who live in that country), thus, the sample was self-weighting.

The State Department, Office of Special Consular Services, distributed the survey materials to designated embassies and consulates. The Foreign Service posts then mailed the forms to persons randomly selected from their rolls of registered U.S. citizens. The survey population includes only those U.S. citizens who registered with an embassy or consulate.

## Results

The major findings from the survey are summarized below:

- Only about a quarter of those surveyed (25.4%) completed and returned their questionnaires. Though, by most standards, this is a low response rate, it compares quite favorably with past surveys of this population.
- Voting by eligible survey respondents was light--only 5.4 percent cast ballots in the 1978 election.
- Among respondents who requested absentee ballots, 19.8 percent never received them, and another 8.8 percent received them too late to vote.
- The likelihood of voting increased with age up to the age of 65, after which it declined slightly. Also, the longer the respondent had lived away from the U.S. the less likely he was to have voted.
- Respondents employed by U.S. businesses overseas were most likely to have voted (8.3%), and self-employed respondents were least likely to have voted (3.7%).
- The most frequently cited reason for not voting was lack of information on absentee voting procedures (65.2%).
- Despite the low level of participation, nearly half (48.1%) of the respondents claimed to be very interested in the 1978 general election.
- The U.S. embassy/consulate was most often cited by respondents as a useful source of information on voting procedures (58.5%), while U.S. newspapers and magazines published overseas were most often cited as a useful source of information on candidates and issues (72.2%).

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## FOREWORD

This report presents the findings of the 1978 Post-Election Voting Survey (Form B). The survey was conducted for the Federal Voting Assistance Program (Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Comptroller) under contract MDA 903-75-C-0128. It was designed to provide information on the voting experiences of privately-employed U.S. citizens who live overseas. This group is one of three surveyed after the 1978 general election to provide data for the biennial report of the Federal Voting Assistance Program. The results of a survey of military personnel and Federal civilian employees (1978 Post-Election Voting Survey--Form A) and a Survey of Unit Voting Officers are described in a separate report.

The technical monitor for this study was Mr. Henry Valentino, Director of the Federal Voting Assistance Program. His advice and support contributed materially to the successful performance of this research. Captain Ronald Friddle, legal advisor for the FVAP, also provided invaluable assistance.

The State Department's Office of Special Consular Services (now the Office of Citizens' Consular Services) handled the distribution of the surveys to selected embassies and consulates. Mr. Robert W. Dry, Voting Assistance Coordinator for the OSCS, supervised the survey distribution and coordinated the survey activities with the Federal Voting Assistance Program.

The Intran Corporation of Minneapolis, Minnesota printed, mailed, and processed the machine-readable questionnaires used in the absentee voter survey. Their responsiveness and the expertise and guidance provided by Mr. Dennis Dillon, Vice President for Program Management, made it possible to launch the survey under severe time constraints.

The Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC), under the direction of Mr. Kenneth C. Scheflen, provided computer support for the analysis of both surveys. Mr. Leslie W. Willis, a programmer/analyst with DMDC, was a helpful advisor on all data processing tasks.

The research was performed by HumRRO's Eastern Division in Alexandria, Virginia under the direction of Dr. Robert J. Seidel. The principal investigator for this study was Mr. John A. Richards. Dr. Thurlow R. Wilson, an in-house consultant, provided advice on sampling and data analysis. Research assistance was provided by Ms. Judith C. Pumphrey.

All interpretations and comments that depart from the factual presentation of survey data reflect solely the views of the author. They do not necessarily represent the opinion or policy of the Department of Defense.



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
SUMMARY . . . . .	1
FOREWORD . . . . .	iii
Chapter 1 Introduction . . . . .	1
Chapter 2 Methodology . . . . .	4
The Survey Instrument . . . . .	6
Response Rate . . . . .	8
Confidentiality . . . . .	9
Chapter 3 1978 Post-Election Voting Survey: Privately- Employed U.S. Citizens Living Overseas . . . . .	11
Eligibility . . . . .	12
Profile of Eligible Respondents . . . . .	12
Participation in the 1978 General Election . . . . .	16
APPENDIX	
A Survey Questionnaire and Cover Letter . . . . .	49
B Sampling Instructions for the 1978 Post-Election Voting Survey (Form B) . . . . .	55

# LIST OF TABLES

	<u>Page</u>
2.1 Sites and Quotas for Sample of Privately-Employed U.S. Citizens Living Overseas . . . . .	7
2.2 Survey Returns by Country . . . . .	10
3.1 Age Distribution of Eligible Respondents . . . . .	13
3.2 Years Respondent Lived Away From U.S. . . . .	13
3.3 Likelihood of Returning to U.S. . . . .	14
3.4 Employment Status of Survey Respondents . . . . .	14
3.5 Number of Dependents Eligible to Vote in 1978 . . . . .	15
3.6 Voting Actions Taken by Eligible Respondents . . . . .	17
3.7 Voting Action Taken by Age Group . . . . .	17
3.8 Voting Action Taken by Years Away From U.S. . . . .	18
3.9 Voting Action Taken by Likelihood of Returning to U.S. . . . .	19
3.10 Voting Actions Taken by Employment Status . . . . .	20
3.11 Means of Applying For Absentee Ballot . . . . .	21
3.12 Where Respondent Obtained FPCA . . . . .	22
3.13 Reasons For Not Voting Indicated by Respondents . . . . .	23
3.14 Reasons For Not Voting by Age Group . . . . .	24
3.15 Reasons For Not Voting by Years Away From U.S. . . . .	25
3.16 Reasons For Not Voting by Employment Status . . . . .	27
3.17 Other Reasons For Not Voting Given by Respondents . . . . .	28
3.18 Number of Eligible Dependents Who Voted . . . . .	29
3.19 Days Before Election Ballot Requested and Received . . . . .	30
3.20 Days Before Election Ballot Requested by Days Before Election Ballot Received . . . . .	32
3.21 Results of Ballot Request by Means of Applying for Ballot . . . . .	33
3.22 Level of Interest in the 1978 Election . . . . .	34
3.23 Level of Interest in the 1978 Election by Age . . . . .	34
3.24 Level of Interest in the 1978 Election by Years Lived Away From U.S. . . . .	35
3.25 Level of Interest in the 1978 Election by Likelihood of Returning to the U.S. . . . .	36

3.26	Level of Interest in the 1978 Election by Employment Status . . . . .	37
3.27	Voting Action Taken by Level of Interest in the 1978 Election . . . . .	38
3.28	Useful Sources of Information on Voting Procedures and Candidates and Issues . . . . .	39
3.29	Useful Sources of Information on Voting Procedures by Age Group . . . . .	41
3.30	Useful Sources of Information on Candidates and Issues by Age Group . . . . .	42
3.31	Useful Sources of Information on Voting Procedures by Years Lived Away From the U.S. . . . .	43
3.32	Useful Sources of Information on Candidates and Issues by Years Lived Away From the U.S. . . . .	44
3.33	Useful Sources of Information on Voting Procedures by Employment Status . . . . .	46
3.34	Useful Sources of Information on Candidates and Issues by Employment Status . . . . .	47



## Chapter 1

### INTRODUCTION

According to State Department statistics, about 1.5 million U.S. citizens--a group nearly equal in size to the combined populations of Alaska, Wyoming, Vermont, and Nevada--now live outside the United States. And this figure does not include military personnel or other federally-employed Americans on overseas assignments. Americans living abroad constitute a remarkably heterogeneous group, diverse both demographically and with regard to their political attachment to the United States. They are businessmen, students, spouses of foreign nationals, missionaries, professionals, teachers, and retirees, to name a few of the major groups. Some are citizens born and raised in the United States who followed opportunities or interests overseas, and others are naturalized U.S. citizens who repatriated with their country of birth; some are abroad only temporarily, while others plan to remain.

Though some Americans living overseas show little interest in elections held in this country, a significant percentage of them are interested and involved in American politics, many of whom faithfully cast their ballots during U.S. elections. Yet, the act of voting can be, for these absent Americans, a confusing, frustrating, and often inhibiting process.

For U.S. military personnel, members of the Merchant Marine, and other U.S. citizens temporarily living overseas, the right to vote in Federal elections through the absentee process has the protection of the Federal Voting Assistance Act of 1955 (42 U.S.C. 1973cc--1973cc26),

which also provides for a program of voting assistance. U.S. citizens living abroad on more than a temporary basis were excluded from this statutory umbrella. For them, the right to vote through the absentee process was not guaranteed until 1975, when Congress passed the Overseas Citizens Voting Rights Act (42 U.S.C. 1973dd--1973dd 5). Under the 1975 Law, any U.S. citizen living overseas can vote in Federal elections by absentee ballot in the state in which he was last domiciled, even if he does not currently maintain a residence in that state. An amendment to this Act (P.L. 95-593), passed by Congress just prior to the 1978 general election, amplified the provisions of the 1975 Law and those of the Federal Voting Assistance Act. Primarily, the 1978 Amendment: (1) encourages state election officials to accept the Federal Post Card Application form (FPCA) as a simultaneous application for registration and absentee ballot, (2) authorizes official balloting materials to be mailed free of postage by the most expeditious means available, and (3) forbids states from imposing income taxes on overseas citizens simply because they vote in Federal elections.

After each general election, the Federal Voting Assistance Program conducts a post-election voting survey to provide data for a biennial report to Congress and the President. In 1978, as in the past, two forms of the survey were administered: one (Form A) to U.S. military personnel and Federal civilian employees assigned overseas, and a second (Form B) to privately-employed citizens living overseas. The results of the former are discussed in a separate report. The results of the latter are the subject of this report.

This year, because of the recently passed amendments to the Overseas Citizens Voting Rights Act, there is a special interest in the data from the survey of privately-employed U.S. citizens living abroad. Of course, since the measure was passed just days before the 1978 election, its provisions will have no impact on absentee voting in that election. However, the data from the 1978 survey will serve as a baseline against which the effect of the amendments on absentee voting in the 1980 election can be assessed.



## Chapter 2

### METHODOLOGY

The data presented in this report are based on the findings of the 1978 Post-Election Voting Survey (Form B), a survey of the voting experiences of privately-employed U.S. citizens living overseas. The survey was distributed to a stratified, random sample of 7,500 Americans registered with U.S. embassies and consulates. The rolls of U.S. citizens who have registered with the embassies and consulates in selected countries comprise the sampling frame for the survey. There are limitations to this sampling strategy: registration with the American embassy is voluntary, hence the survey population does not include all privately-employed U.S. citizens living overseas; also, the rolls of U.S. citizens are not systematically updated, so many of those registered have changed addresses or are no longer in the country. Nevertheless, this sampling scheme is the most practical means of surveying the population of privately-employed Americans living overseas.

Sampling was accomplished in a two-step process designed to create a self-weighting sample stratified by country. First, using figures provided by the State Department, the countries in which the majority of U.S. citizens reside were selected as sampling sites. The resulting list of sampling locations includes 41 countries in which over one and a quarter million privately-employed American citizens (90% of all American citizens in this group) currently live.

Next, each country selected as a sampling site was assigned a quota of U.S. citizens to be included in the survey sample. The quotas were

proportional to the ratio of U.S. citizens in a given country to the total number in all 41 countries. For example, U.S. citizens in Israel comprised 4.56 percent of all those in the survey population. Therefore, the quota for Israel was 4.56 percent of the sample N (7,500), or 342 U.S. citizens. Table 2.1 on the following page lists the countries selected as sampling sites and the quotas assigned to each country.

Finally, the State Department (Office of Special Consular Services) further broke down the quota for each country so that it could be divided, on a proportional basis, among the various Foreign Service posts. The actual selection of the individuals to be included in the sample was performed by Foreign Service personnel in the designated embassies and consulates, using instructions developed by the survey project director. (The instructions are reproduced in Appendix B.). The instructions tell the person selecting the sample how to determine the correct sampling fraction and how to draw his portion of the sample in a random fashion using the sampling fraction.

The survey forms, mailing envelopes, and pre-addressed return envelopes were distributed to selected Foreign Service posts by the State Department. Originally, the materials were to have been distributed in November following the election. Unfortunately, an untimely string of international events (including the revolt in Iran and the Jonestown, Guyana incident) kept personnel in the State Department's Office of Special Consular Services busy on priority matters for several weeks. Thus, the survey materials were not distributed until late in December. This could have two adverse consequences. First, the survey relies on the respondent's memory

of certain dates and events concerning the November election, and the accuracy of his recollections is likely to decline somewhat over time. Second, the printed survey cover letters asked the respondent to return the questionnaire by December 31, 1978, which must have been a perplexing request since none of the respondents received a form until after that date. The State Department sent a message to participating Foreign Service posts requesting them to change the date to January 31, 1979, but many of the letters were distributed with the original date. Although it is impossible to determine the effect this may have had on the response to the survey, it almost certainly discouraged some from completing the form.

The turbulent state of international affairs at the end of 1978 had another, more direct effect on the survey sample. Just prior to the distribution of the survey forms, two of the sampling sites had to be eliminated: Iran, because of the revolt in that country; and Taiwan, due to the problems there associated with the United States' establishment of diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. Also, because of the influx of U.S. citizens fleeing Iran, the embassy in Athens was unable to distribute its survey forms. Athens had been assigned the majority of the quota for Greece (237 out of 258). These deletions resulted in the original sample being reduced from 7,500 to 6,988.

#### THE SURVEY INSTRUMENT

Form B of the 1978 Post-Election Voting Survey was a four-page, machine-readable questionnaire (see Appendix A). Since this study was not officially launched until October 1, 1978, just five weeks before the



Table 2.1  
 Sites and Quotas for Sample of Privately-Employed  
 U.S. Citizens Living Overseas

<u>Country</u>	<u>U.S. Population</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Quota</u>
Canada	262,500	20.7	1,552
Mexico	162,387	12.8	960
United Kingdom	88,160	6.9	521
Italy	83,264	6.6	492
Germany	78,929	6.2	466
Israel	58,000	4.6	342
Greece	43,700	3.4	258
Iran	40,061	3.2	237
Spain	37,052	2.9	219
Brazil	31,764	2.5	188
France	30,700	2.4	181
Philippines	28,200	2.2	167
Australia	27,653	2.2	163
Belgium	27,132	2.1	160
Japan	22,716	1.8	134
Venezuela	22,000	1.7	130
Saudi Arabia	21,000	1.7	124
Norway	14,000	1.1	83
Dominican Republic	13,829	1.1	82
Ireland	13,510	1.1	80
Colombia	13,177	1.0	78
Costa Rica	12,010	0.9	71
Austria	10,990	0.9	65
Netherlands	10,770	0.8	64
Jamaica	10,000	0.8	59
Peru	9,600	0.8	57
Guatemala	9,550	0.8	56
Thailand	9,299	0.7	55
Poland	7,539	0.6	45
Indonesia	7,457	0.6	44
Taiwan	6,400	0.5	38
Hong Kong	6,376	0.5	38
Rep. of South Africa	6,246	0.5	37
Singapore	6,000	0.5	35
Sweden	5,970	0.5	35
Korea	5,716	0.5	34
Bahamas	5,500	0.4	33
Honduras	5,000	0.4	30
Portugal	5,000	0.4	30
Kenya	4,900	0.4	29
Denmark	4,800	0.4	28
	<u>1,268,857</u>		<u>7,500</u>

election, there was very little time for survey development and the required Office of Management and the Budget clearance review. Therefore, most of the questions were taken from the 1976 questionnaire. No pre-tests were conducted, since modifications to the form were minor.

Two items were included in the 1978 survey that did not appear on the 1976 questionnaire: (1) respondents were asked to identify the state from which they had requested an absentee ballot, and (2) those who had requested an absentee ballot were asked to indicate when they mailed their request, when they received their ballot, and when they returned their completed ballot. These questions were included to provide some indication of trouble spots in the absentee voting process.

The Form B questionnaire may be divided into eight content areas:

- eligibility
- voting actions
- sources of voting information
- degree of interest in the election
- time away from the U.S. and likelihood of returning
- reasons for not voting
- voting by dependents
- host country

A few of the items allowed the respondent to write in responses not covered by the pre-coded alternatives. These write-in responses were content analyzed, and the results of these analyses will be included in the discussion of findings in the next chapter.

## RESPONSE RATE

To compute the response rate for the survey, the original sample will have to be adjusted to include only those who received questionnaires. This means that the number of survey forms returned by the post office as

undeliverable will have to be subtracted from the number of questionnaires actually distributed. For various reasons, 397 survey forms were returned by postal services of countries in which the survey was being conducted. (Most of the undeliverable forms were returned from locations in geographically contiguous countries--Canada and Mexico. It is probable that many of the undeliverable questionnaires were not returned, since they were mailed by the U.S. embassy in the host country and would not have sufficient postage for return mailing to the United States). The adjusted sample N is, therefore, 6,988 minus 397 undeliverable forms, or 6,591.

The 1976 survey of privately-employed U.S. citizens had a response rate of 22.8 percent, so a large response to the 1978 survey was not expected. In fact, the actual response was not overwhelming, but it was slightly greater than anticipated.

As Table 2.2 on the following page shows, 1,677 completed surveys were returned. Based on the adjusted sample size, then, the overall response rate was 25.4 percent. The response varied from country to country, and no responses were received from Peru.

#### CONFIDENTIALITY

Participation in the absentee voter survey was voluntary, and those who did participate did so anonymously--no identifying information was requested on the survey questionnaire (only two demographic items--age and U.S. citizenship--appeared on the form, and these items were required to determine voting eligibility). No roster of survey participants was maintained.



Table 2.2

## Survey Returns by Country

<u>Country</u>	<u>Number of Returns</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Number of Returns</u>
Canada	380	Austria	26
Mexico	86	Netherlands	23
United Kingdom	168	Jamaica	1
Italy	109	Peru	--
Germany	154	Guatemala	10
Israel	108	Thailand	2
Greece	2	Poland	1
Spain	69	Indonesia	12
Brazil	21	Hong Kong	19
France	66	Rep. of South Africa	2
Philippines	7	Singapore	5
Australia	55	Sweden	21
Belgium	63	Korea	20
Japan	62	Bahamas	4
Venezuela	6	Honduras	8
Saudi Arabia	45	Portugal	6
Norway	42	Kenya	4
Dominican Republic	10	Denmark	6
Ireland	1	Other	16
Colombia	16	Not Specified	7
Costa Rica	14		
		Total	1,677

Limitations of the Survey Data

Overall, the picture created by the survey data is most likely a fair representation of the actual situation among American citizens who live overseas. The reader, however, should be aware of two limitations. First, the survey population includes only U.S. citizens who have registered with the U.S. embassy or consulate in their host country. These citizens may differ in some ways from those who have not registered. Second, only one-fourth of those surveyed completed and returned their survey forms. It is possible that the non-respondents as a group differ from the respondents on some characteristics. In the absence of data on non-registrants and non-respondents it is not possible to determine the nature of any differences that may exist. Population estimates can be created from the survey data as long as these limitations are taken into consideration.

### Chapter 3

#### 1978 Post-Election Voting Survey: Privately-Employed U.S. Citizens Living Overseas

Traditionally, the Federal government and the individual states have tried to provide members of the armed forces the opportunity to vote while stationed away from their legal voting residences. Eventually, members of the Merchant Marine, Federal government employees assigned overseas, and other U.S. citizens living overseas on a temporary basis came to share in these efforts, which were formalized in the Federal Voting Assistance Act of 1955. However, it was only recently, with the passage of the Overseas Citizens Voting Rights Act of 1975, that U.S. citizens who live overseas on a long-term basis were given formal guarantees that they could cast their ballots in Federal elections through the absentee voting process. Last year, Congress took steps to further assist and encourage absentee voters among overseas Americans by passing a series of amendments to the 1975 Law (see the discussion in Chapter 1).

In view of the recent Congressional action in behalf of American voters living outside of the country, there is increased interest in assessing the voting behavior of this group. The 1978 Post-Election Voting Survey (Form B) will provide a thorough look at the voting behavior and experiences of privately-employed overseas citizens during the 1978 general election. Though the impact of the 1978 amendments cannot be assessed until the 1980 election, this survey will provide baseline data for that analysis. A comprehensive review of the findings from

the 1978 survey of privately-employed citizens living abroad is presented in this chapter.

## ELIGIBILITY

Because the focus of the survey is on absentee voters, only the responses of those eligible to vote were tabulated during these analyses. The first two questions on the survey form--U.S. citizenship and age--were used to screen out ineligible respondents. Six persons claimed to be under 18 years of age, and 53 indicated that they were not U.S. citizens. The returns of these 59 ineligible respondents (3.5% of the total) were excluded from later analyses. The data base was thereby reduced to 1,618 returns from U.S. citizens who were eligible to vote in 1978.

## PROFILE OF ELIGIBLE RESPONDENTS

Though the amount of personal background information requested from respondents was purposefully kept at a minimum, there is sufficient data to form a partial profile. Tables 3.1 through 3.5 give frequency distributions for age, number of years the respondent has lived overseas, the respondent's judgment of the likelihood of his return to the U.S., employment status, and number of dependents eligible to vote in 1978.

The age distribution shown in Table 3.1 is skewed toward the higher (older) end of the scale. More than four out of ten (41.9%) respondents were over 44 years of age, while fewer than one out of ten (8.8%) were under 25.



Table 3.1  
Age Distribution of Eligible Respondents\*

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Percent</u> (N=1607)
18-20	3.3
21-24	5.2
25-34	25.3
35-44	24.2
45-64	32.6
65 or Over	9.3

\* Base: All eligible respondents who answered Question 2.

Table 3.2 clearly illustrates that the survey respondents, for the most part, are living overseas on much more than a temporary basis. More than two-thirds (69.2%) had lived away from the U.S. for over five years, and nearly one-fourth (24.3%) had lived outside the country for over 15 years. Only a small fraction (6.7%) of the respondents had been abroad for one year or less.

Table 3.2  
Years Respondent Lived Away From U.S.\*

<u>Years Away From U.S.</u>	<u>Percent</u> (N=1545)
1 Year or Less	6.7
2 - 5 Years	24.1
6 - 10 Years	30.1
11 - 15 Years	14.8
16 Years or More	24.3

\* Base: All eligible respondents who answered Question 11.

Table 3.3  
Likelihood of Returning to U.S.\*

	<u>Percent</u> (N=1606)
Definitely Will Return	29.3
Probably Will Return	26.1
Undecided	23.3
Probably Won't Return	19.5
Definitely Won't Return	1.8

\* Base: All eligible respondents who answered Question 12.

Though, as indicated in Table 3.2, most respondents had lived overseas for fairly long periods of time, Table 3.3 shows that a large number obviously still have strong ties to the U.S. Over half (55.4%) indicated that they would most likely return to the United States to live at some time in the future. Only one in five (21.3%) indicated that they would probably remain overseas.

Table 3.4  
Employment Status of Survey Respondents\*

<u>Status</u>	<u>Percent</u> (N=1574)
Retired	12.4
Student	6.8
Teacher	11.5
Self-Employed	10.4
U.S. Business	12.3
Non-U.S. Business	18.9
Not Employed	14.2
Other	13.6

\* Base: All eligible respondents who answered Question 13.

Table 3.4 indicates that the survey respondents fall into rather diverse employment categories; no one category accounts for a substantial percentage of the respondents. The largest group (18.9%) reported that they work for non-U.S. businesses, while the smallest group (6.8%) reported that they are students. A surprisingly large percentage (14.2%) of the respondents indicated they were unemployed at the time they completed the survey form (this did not include retirees--another 12.4% of the respondents). The content analysis of the written responses under "Other" revealed that over one-third (35.6%) of those who wrote in a category not listed on the form were housewives. Another quarter (23.9%) were ministers or missionaries. The remainder of the write-in responses consisted of various descriptions of employers and occupational fields, none accounting for more than four percent of the total (e.g., foreign government employee, U.N. international organization, kibbutznik, nurse, secretary, etc.).

Table 3.5  
Number of Dependents Eligible to Vote in 1978\*

<u>No. Eligible Dependents</u>	<u>Percent (N=1598)</u>
None	66.8
One	27.0
Two	4.0
Three	1.6
Four	0.4
Five	--
Six	0.1
Seven Or More	--

\* Base: All eligible respondents who answered Question 15.



Table 3.5 completes the respondent profile with a distribution of responses to question 15, the number of dependents residing with the respondent who were eligible to vote in 1978. Two-thirds (66.8%) reported no dependents eligible to vote in the U.S., and another 27 percent reported one eligible dependent (probably the respondent's spouse in most cases). Only 6.1 percent of the survey respondents reported that they had two or more dependents living with them who were eligible to vote in the November election.

#### PARTICIPATION IN THE 1978 GENERAL ELECTION

Until recently, absentee voting in the U.S. elections by American citizens living overseas on a long-term basis has been a hit or miss proposition. Depending on one's state of residence, requesting an absentee ballot was often an involved process that did not always result in a ballot being received in time to vote. (In some cases this action had the adverse effect of placing the absentee voter on the state income tax rolls.) Recent legislation discussed earlier has done much to correct these problems, but voting by U.S. citizens who are overseas residents remains light. In the 1976 presidential election, nearly one-fifth (19.6%) of the privately-employed U.S. citizens living abroad cast ballots, according to the results of the Post-Election Voting Survey conducted that year. Table 3.6, below, shows the voting actions of this group during the 1978 general election.

Table 3.6  
Voting Actions Taken by Eligible Respondents\*

<u>Voting Actions</u>	<u>Percent</u> (N=1618)
Didn't Request Ballot	93.0
Requested But Didn't Receive Ballot	1.1
Received But Didn't Return Ballot	0.6
Voted Absentee	4.5
Voted At Polls	0.9

\* Base: All eligible respondents.

Only 5.4 percent of the survey respondents voted in 1978, most of these by absentee ballot. Another 1.1 percent requested but did not receive absentee ballots. The following table shows how voting among this group varied by age.

Table 3.7  
Voting Action Taken by Age Group\*  
(Percentages)

<u>Voting Actions</u>	<u>18-20</u> (N=53)	<u>21-24</u> (N=84)	<u>25-34</u> (N=407)	<u>35-44</u> (N=389)	<u>45-64</u> (N=524)	<u>65+</u> (N=150)
Didn't Request Ballot	96.2	97.6	94.1	91.8	92.0	92.0
Requested But Didn't Receive Ballot	1.9	1.2	1.0	1.5	1.0	0.7
Received But Didn't Return Ballot	--	--	0.7	0.8	--	2.0
Voted Absentee	--	1.2	3.4	4.6	6.3	4.7
Voted At Polls	1.9	--	0.7	1.3	0.8	0.7

\* Base: All eligible respondents who answered Question 2.

There is a general increase in the propensity to vote as age increases--at least this is noticeable up to the age of 65, after which the likelihood of voting declines a bit. It is interesting to note that, though none of the 18-20 year olds voted absentee, a few (1.9%) requested absentee ballots, but none received one (however, this datum is based on only a couple of respondents).

Table 3.8  
Voting Action Taken by Years Away From U.S.\*  
(Percentages)

<u>Voting Actions</u>	<u>1 Year Or Less (N=104)</u>	<u>2-5 Years (N=372)</u>	<u>6-10 Years (N=465)</u>	<u>11-15 Years (N=228)</u>	<u>16 Or More Years (N=376)</u>
Didn't Request Ballot	83.7	91.9	93.8	93.9	94.7
Requested But Didn't Receive Ballot	--	2.2	0.6	1.3	1.1
Received But Didn't Return Ballot	1.0	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.3
Voted Absentee	9.6	4.3	4.5	4.4	3.7
Voted At Polls	5.8	1.3	0.4	--	0.3

\* Base: All eligible respondents who answered Question 11.

There is also a definite relationship between the propensity to vote and the amount of time the respondent had lived overseas. Only four percent of the respondents who had lived abroad for 16 years or more voted in 1978, compared to 15.4 percent of those who had been away from the U.S. for one year or less. The difference between those who had lived outside



the U.S. for one year or less and those who had been away for two to five years was the most dramatic shift, with the proportion who voted dropping nearly ten percentage points (from 15.4% to 5.6%). After that point, the decline in voting is gradual and moderate.

Table 3.9  
Voting Action Taken by Likelihood of Returning to U.S.\*  
(Percentages)

<u>Voting Actions</u>	<u>Definitely Will (N=471)</u>	<u>Probably Will (N=419)</u>	<u>Undecided (N=374)</u>	<u>Definitely Won't (N=313)</u>	<u>Probably Won't (N=29)</u>
Didn't Request Ballot	85.6	90.5	94.4	93.6	89.7
Requested But Didn't Receive Ballot	3.8	4.5	2.9	2.2	3.4
Received But Didn't Return Ballot	0.8	0.2	0.5	0.6	--
Voted Absentee	8.1	4.1	1.6	3.2	6.9
Voted At Polls	1.7	0.7	0.5	0.3	--

\* Base: All eligible respondents who answered Question 12.

The association between voting and the likelihood of returning to the U.S. to live seems illogical. The respondents who said that they would definitely return to the U.S. to live were most likely to have voted (9.8%), as common sense would suggest. However, the category with the second greatest percentage of voters was those who said that they definitely would not return to the U.S. to live (6.9%). Those least likely to have voted (2.1%) were the respondents who were undecided about returning to the U.S. In other words, the distribution of the percentage of voters across the five categories takes the shape of an inverted bell curve.

Table 3.10  
Voting Actions Taken by Employment Status\*  
(Percentages)

Voting Actions	Retired (N=195)	Student (N=107)	Teacher (N=181)	Self- Employed (N=163)	U.S. Business (N=193)	Non-U.S. Business (N=297)	Not Employed (N=224)	Other (N=214)
Didn't Request Ballot	92.3	92.5	91.2	93.9	89.6	93.9	95.9	93.5
Requested But Didn't Receive Ballot	0.5	1.9	1.7	2.5	1.6	0.7	0.4	0.5
Received But Didn't Return Ballot	1.5	--	0.6	--	0.5	0.7	--	0.5
Voted Absentee	5.1	3.7	6.1	3.1	5.7	3.7	4.0	5.1
Voted At Polls	0.5	1.9	0.6	0.6	2.6	1.0	--	0.5

\* Base: all eligible respondents who answered Question 13.

As Table 3.10 illustrates, voting behavior varies somewhat by employment category. The smallest percentage of voters is among the self-employed respondents (3.7%), while respondents employed by U.S. businesses were most likely to have voted (8.3%).

The Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) form is a multi-purpose ballot request form that is used for various requests and requirements related to absentee voting, depending upon the state in which one is attempting to vote. The format of the FPCA was prescribed by Congress in the Federal Voting Assistance Act of 1955. It is the primary means of applying for an absentee ballot used by military personnel and Federally-employed civilians assigned overseas. However, the FPCA may be used by any U.S. citizen to request an absentee ballot.

Table 3.11  
Means of Applying For Absentee Ballot\*

	<u>Percent</u> (N=93)
FPCA	53.8
Other Written Request	46.2

\* Base: eligible respondents who requested absentee ballots and answered Question 4.

Table 3.11 shows that only slightly more than half (53.8%) of the privately-employed citizens who requested absentee ballots in 1978 used the FPCA. This may be because the FPCAs are not readily available



to many of the privately-employed U.S. citizens, or because the FPCA's availability is not widely known among this group, or both. However, certain provisions in the 1978 amendment to the Overseas Citizens Voting Rights Act of 1975 which deal with the use of the FPCA by American citizens abroad will probably increase its availability and its use by this group during the 1980 election.

Table 3.12

Where Respondent Obtained FPCA\*

<u>Source</u>	<u>Percent</u> (N=49)
U.S. Embassy	75.5
U.S. Military	6.1
Employer	--
Other Source	18.4

\* Base: eligible respondents who used the FPCA to request an absentee ballot and who answered Question 5.

Table 3.12 indicates that the majority (75.5%) of the respondents who used the FPCA as a means of requesting an absentee ballot, obtained the form from the U.S. embassy. Note that none received the form from his employer.

Tables 3.13 through 3.17 explore the reasons for not voting mentioned by non-voting respondents and factors associated with non-participation. The first table (Table 3.13) gives a frequency distribution of the reasons for not voting indicated by respondents. As explained in a footnote to the table, each percentage is based on the number of respondents who indicated that the reason applied to them some, fairly much, or very much.

Respondents were allowed to mention all reasons that applied to them. In Tables 3.14 through 3.16 the reasons for not voting are broken out by various respondent characteristics. Table 3.17 contains the result of the content analysis of other reasons for not voting written in by respondents.

Table 3.13  
Reasons For Not Voting Indicated by Respondents<sup>a</sup>

<u>Reasons For Not Voting</u>	<u>Percent (N=1265)</u>
Not Aware Of The Election <sup>b</sup>	29.1
Not Interested In Politics	28.2
No Candidate Preference	35.5
My Vote Wouldn't Matter	22.7
Effect On Tax Obligation	15.0
Lacked Information on Procedure	65.2
No Legal Voting Residence	40.1
Other	22.2

<sup>a</sup> Base: non-voting eligible respondents who answered Question 9.

<sup>b</sup> Percentages for each reason represent those who indicated that the reason applied to them some, fairly much, or very much. Note that respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which each reason applied to them.

The reason for not voting most often cited by the survey respondents was "lack of information on voting procedures." Nearly two-thirds (65.2%) said that this factor played a role in their not voting last November. Also mentioned frequently was "no state of legal residence for voting," which four out of ten (40.1%) respondents said applied to them. The factor with the least influence on voting behavior was the "possible effect of

voting on Federal or state income tax obligation." Only 15 percent of the respondents said that this had an influence on their decision not to vote.

Table 3.14  
Reasons for Not Voting by Age Group<sup>a</sup>  
(Percentages)

<u>Reasons For Not Voting</u>	<u>18-20</u> (N=45)	<u>21-24</u> (N=75)	<u>25-34</u> (N=360)	<u>35-44</u> (N=314)	<u>45-64</u> (N=388)	<u>65+</u> (N=76)
Not Aware Of Election <sup>b</sup>	35.6	38.7	29.7	22.9	29.4	34.2
Not Interested In Politics	42.2	36.0	31.4	22.3	26.8	27.6
No Candidate Preference	35.6	29.3	46.7	34.7	30.9	17.1
My Vote Wouldn't Matter	20.0	26.7	27.5	20.1	21.6	14.5
Effect On Tax Obligation	11.1	8.0	11.9	14.3	20.4	11.8
Lacked Information On Procedure	80.0	77.3	75.6	67.5	55.9	34.2
No Legal Voting Residence	26.7	18.7	40.6	45.9	43.3	26.3
Other	17.8	26.7	22.5	22.3	21.1	26.3

<sup>a</sup> Base: non-voting eligible respondents who answered Questions 2 and 9.

<sup>b</sup> Percentages for each reason represent those who indicated that the reason applied to them some, fairly much, or very much. Note that respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which each reason applied to them.

Age shows some interaction with the reasons for not voting. The clearest example is in the reason most often cited--"lack of information on voting procedures." Eighty percent of the most youthful respondents



(18 to 20 year olds) mentioned this as an influence on their not voting, but only 34.2 percent of those 65 and over cited this reason. A couple of isolated associations also stand out. The 18 to 20 year-olds were more likely to select as a reason for not voting the fact that they were not interested in American politics or the election (42.2% vs. 36.0% for the next older age group--21 to 24 year-olds--and 22.3% for the 35 to 44 year-olds). For some reason the 45 to 64 year-olds were noticeably more likely than members of the other age groups to mention the possible effects on Federal and state tax obligations as a reason for not voting. It may well be that

Table 3.15  
Reasons For Not Voting by Years Away From U.S.<sup>a</sup>  
(Percentages)

Reasons For Not Voting	1 Year Or Less (N=76)	2-5 Years (N=306)	6-10 Years (N=381)	11-15 Years (N=187)	16 Or More Years (N=274)
Not Aware Of Elections <sup>b</sup>	26.3	30.7	28.1	28.3	29.2
Not Interested In Politics	17.1	29.1	32.5	18.7	28.8
No Candidate Preference	35.5	34.3	40.2	36.4	29.6
My Vote Wouldn't Matter	21.1	20.6	26.0	21.4	22.3
Effect On Tax Obligation	14.5	15.0	16.5	15.0	12.0
Lacked Information On Procedure	71.1	71.2	65.6	65.2	56.9
No Legal Voting Residence	17.1	30.7	42.0	45.5	52.2
Other	30.3	25.5	22.0	18.2	20.1

<sup>a</sup> Non-voting eligible respondents who answered Questions 9 and 11.

<sup>b</sup> Percentages for each reason represent those who indicated that the reason applied to them some, fairly much, or very much. Note that respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which each reason applied to them.

this group has the highest average income and therefore would stand to lose more by incurring a tax obligation, but this is conjecture, since no income data are available.

The data in Table 3.15 show that the number of years the respondent has lived outside the United States is also associated, to some degree, with reasons for not voting. The greatest effect is seen among those who cited "no state of legal residence for voting." Mention of this reason increases sharply as time lived away from the U.S. increases. Only 17.1 percent of those who had lived abroad for one year or less cited this reason, while it was mentioned by 52.2 percent of those who had lived away for more than 15 years.

The reasons for not voting vary, sometimes markedly, depending on the respondent's employment category, as shown in Table 3.16 on the following page. Often, this variation is predictable. For example, students, teachers, and those not employed were much less likely than businessmen to mention the effect on tax obligation as being a deterrent to voting. Retirees, students, and unemployed respondents were more likely to say that they had no interest in politics or the election. Retirees and unemployed respondents more often than other groups cited the fact that they did not know about the election. Several other variations such as these can be seen among the data.

Those respondents who did not vote for reasons not listed on the questionnaire were provided space for writing in their reasons. Table 3.17 presents the results of a content analysis of the write-in responses.

Table 3.16  
Reasons For Not Voting by Employment Status<sup>a</sup>  
(Percentages)

Reasons For Not Voting	Retired (N=109)	Student (N=90)	Teacher (N=155)	Self- Employed (N=132)	U.S. Business (N=160)	Non-U.S. Business (N=250)	Not Employed (N=170)	Other (N=169)
Not Aware Of The Election <sup>b</sup>	36.7	28.9	24.5	24.2	25.0	25.2	35.3	33.1
Not Interested In Politics	32.1	32.2	28.4	23.5	23.8	26.0	32.4	29.0
No Candidate Preference	22.9	32.2	43.9	31.8	32.5	36.4	37.1	41.4
My Vote Wouldn't Matter	19.3	25.6	29.7	26.5	17.5	21.6	24.7	19.5
Effect On Tax Obligation	19.3	7.8	6.5	13.6	36.3	17.2	5.9	10.7
Lacked Information On Procedure	35.8	67.8	70.3	66.7	63.1	67.2	71.8	70.4
No Legal Voting Residence	29.4	32.2	47.7	41.7	47.5	44.0	40.0	32.5
Other	22.0	24.4	21.9	28.8	18.8	16.0	22.4	26.0

<sup>a</sup> Base: Non-voting eligible respondents who answered Question 9 and 13.

<sup>b</sup> Percentages for each reason represent those who indicated that the reason applied to them some, fairly much, or very much. Note that respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which each reason applied to them.



Table 3.17  
Other Reasons For Not Voting Given by Respondents\*

<u>Content Category</u>	<u>Percent (N=347)</u>
Forgot, Too Busy, Apathetic	17.6
Didn't Think I could Vote	17.3
Not Familiar With Candidates/Issues	12.7
Didn't Know How To Register/Get Ballot	10.7
Received Ballot Too Late Or Not At All	10.1
Discouraged By Past Attempts To Vote	7.8
Procedures Too Difficult/Complicated	5.2
Away From U.S. Too Long	4.3
Didn't Like Candidates	3.2
Miscellaneous	11.2

\* Based on a content analysis of write-in responses to Question 9.

The reasons most often given under the "other" category related to the fact that the respondent was too busy, simply forgot, or was apathetic about the election (17.6%). Almost an equal proportion (17.3%) said that they didn't think they could vote. (Apparently, information on the Overseas Citizen's Voting Rights Act of 1975 has not yet filtered down to many Americans living abroad.) Note that some (7.8%) of those who wrote in their reasons for not voting said that they were discouraged by previous attempts to vote absentee.

Table 3.18 indicates the level of participation in the 1978 election by eligible dependents of the survey respondents.

Table 3.18

## Number of Eligible Dependents Who Voted\*

<u>No. Dependents Who Voted</u>	<u>Percent (N=512)</u>
None	80.9
One	16.2
Two	1.8
Three	1.0
Four	0.2
Five Or More	--

\* Base: Respondents with eligible dependents  
who answered Question 16.

Nearly one-fifth (19.2%) of the respondents with dependents living with them who were eligible to vote last November indicated that at least one dependent had voted. Most of these respondents indicated only one voting dependent.

Though, as suggested by Tables 3.13 to 3.17, lack of information, misinformation, and lack of interest are largely responsible for the low rate of voting among U.S. citizens living overseas, failure to receive a ballot and late receipt of ballots are also contributing factors. Ballot transmission delays constitute a persistent problem for absentee voters, but one that should be correctable (and, as discussed earlier, one of the provisions of the 1978 Amendment to the Overseas Citizen's Voting Rights Act addresses this problem). Tables 3.19 through 3.22 focus on some factors related to ballot transmission. The first of these presents the frequency distributions for the dates of request and the dates of receipt. To

simplify the table, the dates are presented as days before the election, and they are grouped.

Table 3.19  
Days Before Election Ballot Requested and Received<sup>a</sup>  
(Percentages)

<u>Days Before Election</u>	<u>Ballot Requested (N=87)<sup>b</sup></u>	<u>Ballot Received (N=91)<sup>c</sup></u>
151 Days Or More	5.7	--
121 - 150 Days	3.4	--
91 - 120 Days	13.8	1.1
61 - 90 Days	17.2	1.1
31 - 60 Days	40.2	7.7
16 - 30 Days	14.9	35.2
6 - 15 Days	2.3	20.9
1 - 5 Days	--	5.5
After Election	2.3	8.8
Never Received	--	19.8

<sup>a</sup> Base: Eligible respondents who requested absentee ballots.

<sup>b</sup> N based on respondents who gave the date they requested their absentee ballot.

<sup>c</sup> N based on respondents who indicated the date they received their absentee ballot, plus those who requested but did not receive a ballot.

Most (72.3%) respondents who requested absentee ballots sent their requests between 16 and 90 days before the November 7 election date. A few (5.7%) of the more eager respondents mailed their requests five months or more before the election, while a couple (2.3%) reported that they mailed their ballot requests after the election. Over half (56.1%) of those who



requested ballots received them between six and 30 days prior to the election. Of more interest, though, is the fact that one-fifth (19.8%) of those who sent in requests never received their ballots, and another 8.8 percent received them too late to vote. In other words, well over one-quarter (28.6%) of the respondents who requested absentee ballots were denied an opportunity to vote.

Failure to receive an absentee ballot stems from several causes, and it is impossible to specify them without analyzing ballot requests on a case by case basis. However, this problem appears to have three major sources: first, postal delays, especially in the case of materials sent by international mail via surface transportation; second, administrative errors and delays on the part of election officials who process absentee ballot requests; and, third, the requesters themselves--i.e., some are not eligible to vote in the state to which they mailed their request, and others miss the "window" of time during which the state will accept absentee ballot requests. (Many states will ignore requests sent either before or after dates designated by them as absentee ballot processing dates. This means that an eager, would-be voter who sends his request in very early may be just as likely to be overlooked by election officials as someone who sends his request in too late.)

Table 3.20 on the following page shows the results of a cross-tabulation of ballot request date by ballot receipt date. The percentages given in this table are based on very few cases in each cell, so they are not likely to be stable. It is interesting to note, though, that all of the respondents who failed to receive ballots mailed their requests at least

Table 3.20

Days Before Election Ballot Requested by Days Before Election Ballot Received<sup>a</sup>  
(Ns and Percentages)<sup>b</sup>

Days Before Election Ballot Requested	Days Before Election Ballot Received						After Election	Never Received (N=18)
	91-120 Days (N=1)	61-90 Days (N=1)	31-60 Days (N=6)	16-30 Days (N=30)	6-15 Days (N=16)	1-5 Days (N=4)		
Greater Than 151 Days	--	--	(2) 33.3	(1) 3.3	--	--	(1) 14.3	(1) 5.6
121-150	--	(1) 100	--	--	--	--	--	(2) 11.1
91-120	(1) 100	--	(1) 16.7	(2) 6.7	(2) 12.5	--	--	(6) 33.3
61-90	--	--	(2) 33.3	(5) 16.7	(1) 6.3	(1) 25.0	(1) 14.3	(4) 22.2
31-60	--	--	--	(19) 63.3	(6) 37.5	(2) 50.0	(1) 14.3	(4) 22.2
16-30	--	--	c	(3) 10.0	(6) 37.5	(1) 25.0	(1) 14.3	(1) 5.6
6-15	--	--	--	--	(1) 6.3	--	(1) 14.3	--
1-5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
After Election	--	--	--	--	--	--	(2) 28.6	--

<sup>a</sup> Base: eligible respondents who requested an absentee ballot and answered Question 10.

<sup>b</sup> Because of the small number of cases in each cell, the cell Ns are given in parenthesis.

<sup>c</sup> One respondent indicated that he requested a ballot 16-30 days prior to the election and received a ballot 31-60 days before the election. This case is not reflected in the table since it obviously represents a marking error.

16 days before the election. In fact, half of them mailed their requests 91 days or more before the election. In some cases this may have been too early, as discussed above.

Table 3.21  
Results of Ballot Request by Means of Applying For Ballot\*  
(Percentages)

<u>Results of Request</u>	<u>Means of Applying</u>	
	<u>FPCA</u> (N=49)	<u>Other Written Request</u> (N=40)
Ballot Received Before Election	73.5	72.5
Ballot Received After Election	8.2	7.5
Didn't Receive Ballot	18.4	20.0

\* Base: eligible respondents who requested absentee ballots and who answered Questions 4 and 7.

To see if the means of requesting a ballot had any effect on whether or not the ballot was received in time to vote, these two variables were cross-tabulated. Table 3.21 shows that those who used the Federal Post Card Application form to request a ballot and those who used some other form of written request were about equally as likely to receive (or not receive) a ballot in time to vote. The form of request used apparently has little to do with ballot transmission delays.

The next six tables (Tables 3.22 through 3.27) present the results of analyses of the respondents' reported interest in the 1978 election cross-tabulated by voting behavior and various background characteristics.



Table 3.22

## Level of Interest in the 1978 Election\*

<u>Level of Interest</u>	<u>Percent</u> (N=1594)
Very Interested	48.1
Somewhat Interested	44.4
Not Interested	7.6

\* Base: eligible respondents who answered Question 14.

A surprisingly large percentage of respondents (48.1%) reported that they were very interested in the election, and very few (7.6%) reported that they had no interest. This is a bit hard to explain in view of the fact that, as shown in Table 3.13, well over one-quarter of the non-voting respondents listed lack of interest as one of the reasons for not voting.

Table 3.23

Level of Interest in the 1978 Election by Age\*  
(Percentages)

<u>Level of Interest</u>	<u>18-20</u> (N=52)	<u>21-24</u> (N=82)	<u>25-34</u> (N=400)	<u>35-44</u> (N=388)	<u>45-64</u> (N=517)	<u>65+</u> (N=144)
Very Interested	13.5	31.7	34.8	50.3	59.8	58.3
Somewhat Interested	67.3	54.9	57.0	43.8	35.0	29.9
Not Interested	19.2	13.4	8.3	5.9	5.2	11.8

\* Base: eligible respondents who answered Questions 2 and 14.

When interest in the election is broken out by age group--Table 3.23-- a clear pattern emerges. The percentage of respondents who said they were very interested in the 1978 election increases dramatically with age, peaking with the 45-64 year old age group. The proportion claiming great interest climbs more than 45 percentage points, from a low of 13.5 percent for the 18-20 year olds, to a high of 59.8 percent for the 45-64 year olds.

Table 3.24  
Level of Interest in the 1978 Election by Years  
Lived Away From U.S.\*  
(Percentages)

<u>Level of Interest</u>	<u>1 Year Or Less</u> (N=103)	<u>2-5 Years</u> (N=365)	<u>6-10 Years</u> (N=461)	<u>11-15 Years</u> (N=227)	<u>16 Or More Years</u> (N=370)
Very Interested	46.6	46.0	47.7	51.1	49.7
Somewhat Interested	43.7	46.6	46.2	42.7	40.8
Not Interested	9.7	7.4	6.1	6.2	9.5

\* Base: eligible respondents who answered Questions 11 and 14.

Interest in the election bears surprisingly little relation to the amount of time the respondent has lived overseas. It would seem logical that interest in U.S. elections might decline somewhat the longer one lives overseas. Actually, just the opposite is true; interest rises slightly as time lived outside of the country increases.

Table 3.25

Level of Interest in The 1978 Election by  
Likelihood of Returning to The U.S.\*  
(Percentages)

<u>Level of Interest</u>	<u>Definitely Will</u> (N=468)	<u>Probably Will</u> (N=413)	<u>Undecided</u> (N=368)	<u>Probably Won't</u> (N=309)	<u>Definitely Won't</u> (N=28)
Very Interested	54.3	53.5	42.7	38.8	35.7
Somewhat Interested	40.4	40.0	47.8	53.1	35.7
Not Interested	5.3	6.5	9.5	8.1	28.6

\* Base: eligible respondents who answered Questions 12 and 14.

Table 3.25 shows an unmistakable relationship between interest in the election and the likelihood of returning to the U.S. to live reported by the respondent. As one would expect, the percentage of respondents claiming to be very interested in the election drops as the likelihood of returning to the U.S. declines. Conversely, the percentage of respondents claiming no interest in the election generally increases as the likelihood of returning to the U.S. decreases.

Reported interest in the election varies by employment category (see Table 3.26 on the following page). Among respondents employed overseas by U.S. businesses, 56 percent said they were very interested in the 1978 election; this was the largest percentage observed among the various categories. The smallest percentage of respondents reporting great interest--33.3 percent--was observed among students.



Table 3.26

Level of Interest in the 1978 Election by Employment Status\*  
(Percentages)

Level of Interest	Retired (N=191)	Student (N=105)	Teacher (N=181)	Self- Employed (N=162)	U.S. Business (N=193)	Non-U.S. Business (N=294)	Not Employed (N=220)	Other (N=212)
Vert Interested	55.0	33.3	55.2	54.9	56.0	46.9	39.5	42.0
Somewhat Interested	36.1	53.3	42.0	38.9	38.3	44.6	51.8	50.5
Not Interested	8.9	13.3	2.8	6.2	5.7	8.5	8.6	7.5

\* Base: eligible respondents who answered Questions 13 and 14.

Table 3.27  
Voting Action Taken By Level of Interest in The 1978 Election\*  
(Percentages)

<u>Voting Actions</u>	<u>Very Interested (N=766)</u>	<u>Somewhat Interested (N=707)</u>	<u>Not Interested (N=121)</u>
Didn't Request Ballot	88.1	96.9	100.0
Requested But Didn't Receive Ballot	1.8	0.6	--
Received But Didn't Return Ballot	0.9	0.3	--
Voted Absentee	8.0	1.6	--
Voted At Polls	1.2	0.7	--

\* Base: eligible respondents who answered Question 14.

The analysis of voting actions by level of interest in the election--Table 3.27--yields very predictable results. Among the respondents who reported that they were very interested in the election, 9.2 percent actually voted (nearly twice the rate for all eligible respondents). Among those reporting no interest in the election, none voted--in fact, none even requested an absentee ballot.

The final series of tables examines the sources of information on voting procedures and candidates and issues that respondents felt had been useful.

As shown in Table 3.28 on the following page, the source of information on voting procedures most frequently cited as being useful was the U.S. embassy or consulate (58.5%). This was followed by U.S. newspapers and magazines published overseas (44.1%) and U.S. newspapers and magazines published in the U.S. (43.0%). For information on candidates and issues, U.S.

Table 3.28

Useful Sources of Information on Voting Procedures  
And Candidates And Issues<sup>a</sup>  
(Percentages)

<u>Information Sources</u>	<u>Voting Procedures (N=1043)</u>	<u>Candidates And Issues (N=1225)</u>
U.S. Embassy/Consulate <sup>b</sup>	58.5	17.4
Defense Department	9.3	4.5
Other U.S. Agency	10.5	6.4
Political Party Hq.	23.5	22.4
U.S. News-Publ. in U.S.	43.0	64.7
U.S. News-Pub. Overseas	44.1	72.2
Non-U.S. News Media	14.8	27.9
Employers	6.6	4.0
Family/Friends	23.3	29.0
U.S. Labor Unions	4.6	4.5
Other Source	5.9	6.0

<sup>a</sup> Base: eligible respondents who answered question 10.

<sup>b</sup> Percentages for each source represent the proportion of those who answered the question who indicated that it was quite useful or very useful as a source of information.



newspapers and magazines published overseas were most frequently mentioned as a useful source (72.2%). U.S. newspapers and magazines published in the U.S. and family and friends were the second and third most useful sources of information on candidates and issues, as judged by the number of times they were cited by respondents (64.7% and 29.0%, respectively).

The perceived usefulness of the various sources of information was, in some cases, related to the age of the respondent. For information on voting procedures, younger respondents were more apt to mention political party headquarters, family and friends, and U.S. government agencies (including DoD) as useful sources (see Table 3.29). For information on candidates and issues, younger respondents were more likely to mention U.S. newspapers and magazines (both those published in the U.S. and those published overseas), political party headquarters, non-U.S. newspapers and magazines, and family and friends (see Table 3.30). In fact, the younger respondents were more likely than those in the older age groups to mention most sources of information on candidates and issues as being useful. The most obvious case where this observation does not hold true is with the U.S. embassy or consulate. A considerably larger portion of the older respondents (especially those 65 and older) mentioned the embassy or consulate as being a useful source of information on candidates and issues.

The number of years the respondent has lived outside of the U.S. also shows some interaction with the reported usefulness of certain information sources, as Tables 3.31 and 3.32 reveal. A larger percentage of the long-term overseas residents reported that U.S. newspapers and magazines published overseas and non-U.S. newspapers and magazines were useful sources of information on voting procedures. The respondents who had lived abroad for shorter

Table 3.29  
Useful Sources of Information on Voting Procedure  
By Age Group<sup>a</sup>  
(Percentages)

Information Sources	18-20 (N=30)	21-24 (N=56)	25-34 (N=241)	35-44 (N=249)	45-64 (N=358)	65+ (N=101)
U.S. Embassy/ Consulate <sup>b</sup>	60.0	60.7	56.4	57.8	57.8	64.4
Defense Department	16.7	10.7	8.3	7.2	9.8	11.9
Other U.S. Agency	16.7	17.9	10.4	7.6	10.3	11.9
Political Party Hq.	43.3	21.4	27.4	24.1	22.6	10.9
U.S. News- Pub in U.S.	36.7	26.8	43.6	40.6	48.6	37.6
U.S. News- Pub Overseas	40.0	30.4	44.4	45.8	47.5	34.7
Non-U.S. News Media	13.3	8.9	16.2	12.9	16.8	12.9
Employers	6.7	8.9	6.2	5.6	7.3	5.9
Family/ Friends	40.0	35.7	29.0	20.5	19.3	19.8
U.S. Labor Unions	10.0	5.4	3.3	3.2	4.5	7.9
Other Source	3.3	7.1	5.0	6.4	6.1	6.9

<sup>a</sup>Base: eligible respondents who indicated sources of information on voting procedures in Question 10.

<sup>b</sup> Percentages for each source represent the proportion of those who answered the question who indicated that it was quite useful or very useful as a source of information.

Table 3.30  
Useful Sources of Information on Candidates And Issues  
By Age Group<sup>a</sup>  
(Percentages)

Information Sources	18-20 (N=32)	21-24 (N=65)	25-34 (N=327)	35-44 (N=318)	45-64 (N=391)	65+ (N=84)
U.S. Embassy/ Consulate <sup>b</sup>	15.6	13.8	11.6	12.6	21.1	41.7
Defense Department	6.3	3.1	4.6	3.1	4.6	7.1
Other U.S. Agency	9.4	16.9	6.1	4.4	6.1	7.1
Political Party Hq.	40.6	30.8	22.9	19.5	23.8	9.5
U.S. News- Pub in U.S.	62.5	63.1	67.6	67.3	65.2	45.2
U.S. News- Pub Overseas	81.3	69.2	78.0	74.8	68.5	54.8
Non-U.S. News Media	28.1	29.2	34.9	29.9	22.8	15.5
Employers	9.4	3.1	3.7	3.1	4.9	2.4
Family/ Friends	53.1	43.1	35.2	26.1	24.0	19.0
U.S. Labor Unions	9.4	4.6	4.6	3.1	4.3	6.0
Other Source	3.1	10.8	4.6	6.6	6.4	6.0

<sup>a</sup> Base: eligible respondents who indicated sources of information on candidates and issues in Question 10.

<sup>b</sup> Percentages for each source represent the proportion of those who answered the question who indicated that it was quite useful or very useful as a source of information.



Table 3.31  
Useful Sources of Information on Voting Procedures  
By Years Lived Away From The U.S.<sup>a</sup>  
(Percentages)

Information Sources	1 Year Or Less (N=60)	2-5 Years (N=240)	6-10 Years (N=299)	11-15 Years (N=147)	Over 15 Years (N=256)
U.S. Embassy/Consulate	51.7	57.1	60.9	57.8	57.4
Defense Department	15.0	10.8	9.0	6.8	8.6
Other U.S. Agency	18.3	10.8	12.0	7.5	8.6
Political Party Hq.	33.3	22.9	25.4	24.5	18.8
U.S. News-Pub in U.S.	30.0	45.4	40.8	42.9	46.9
U.S. News-Pub Overseas	45.0	48.8	40.1	46.3	43.4
Non-U.S. News Media	3.3	16.7	13.4	13.6	18.0
Employers	16.7	11.7	3.0	4.8	5.1
Family/Friends	40.0	24.6	21.7	17.7	24.2
U.S. Labor Unions	10.0	8.3	1.3	2.7	4.3
Other Source	3.3	6.7	5.7	6.8	5.5

<sup>a</sup> Base: eligible respondents who indicated sources of information on voting procedures in Question 10.

<sup>b</sup> Percentages for each source represent the proportion of those who answered the question who indicated that it was quite useful or very useful as a source of information.

Table 3.32  
Useful Sources of Information on Candidates and Issues  
By Years Lived Away From The U.S.<sup>a</sup>  
(Percentages)

<u>Information Sources</u>	<u>1 Year Or Less</u> (N=73)	<u>2-5 Years</u> (N=302)	<u>6-10 Years</u> (N=356)	<u>11-15 Years</u> (N=177)	<u>Over 15 Years</u> (N=276)
U.S. Embassy/ Consulate	15.1	16.2	16.6	12.4	21.4
Defense Department	5.5	4.6	2.8	4.0	6.2
Other U.S. Agency	8.2	7.0	5.6	5.1	6.9
Political Party Hq.	24.7	20.2	25.0	22.6	20.3
U.S. News- Pub in U.S.	61.6	65.6	64.3	62.7	67.8
U.S. News- Pub Overseas	67.1	76.5	72.2	71.8	70.3
Non-U.S. News Media	17.8	26.5	31.2	29.9	28.3
Employers	8.2	6.0	2.2	2.3	3.6
Family/ Friends	43.8	31.1	26.7	26.6	28.3
U.S. Labor Unions	11.0	7.3	1.1	3.4	4.0
Other Source	5.5	4.6	6.2	11.3	4.7

<sup>a</sup> Base: eligible respondents who indicated sources of information on candidates and issues in Question 10.

<sup>b</sup> Percentages for each source represent the proportion of those who answered the question who indicated that it was quite useful or very useful as a source of information.

periods of time more frequently cited family and friends, employers, and government agencies as useful sources of voting procedure information. As a useful source of information on candidates and issues, the long-term residents were somewhat more likely to cite U.S. newspapers and magazines published overseas. Those who had lived overseas for shorter periods of time were more likely to mention family and friends as a useful source of information on candidates and issues.

Tables 3.33 and 3.34 show how the perceived usefulness of the various information sources differs depending on the respondent's employment category. The first table shows many differences in the reported usefulness of various sources of voting procedure information; however, most are rather modest and the relative reported usefulness of the sources remains fairly constant across the eight employment categories. Probably the major differences apparent in this table are among respondents employed by U.S. businesses. They were the only group to cite U.S. newspapers and magazines more frequently than the U.S. embassy or consulate as a useful source of information on voting procedures. They also mentioned at least twice as frequently as any other group employers as a useful source of voting procedure information.

Table 3.34, which shows for each employment category the reported usefulness of sources of information on candidates and issues, also shows several differences across the eight categories. However, as with the preceding table, most were minor to moderate. Without exception, U.S. newspapers and magazines (both those published in the U.S. and those published overseas) were most frequently mentioned as a useful source of information on candidates



Table 3.33

Useful Sources of Information on Voting Procedures by Employment Status<sup>a</sup>  
(Percentages)

Information Sources	Retired (N=142)	Student (N=69)	Teacher (N=101)	Self- Employed (N=119)	U.S. Business (N=136)	Non-U.S. Business (N=196)	Not Employed (N=127)	Other (N=128)
U.S. Embassy/Consulate <sup>b</sup>	61.3	69.6	47.5	60.5	44.9	60.7	69.3	56.3
Defense Department	13.4	8.7	7.9	6.7	4.4	10.7	11.0	9.4
Other U.S. Agency	12.7	13.0	6.9	10.1	7.4	9.7	13.4	11.7
Political Party Hq.	16.2	23.2	8.9	24.4	20.6	28.6	33.9	25.0
U.S. News-Pub. in U.S.	40.1	24.6	35.6	51.3	52.9	44.4	43.3	39.8
U.S. News-Pub. Overseas	39.4	33.3	39.6	42.0	50.7	46.4	54.3	39.8
Non-U.S. News Media	15.5	10.1	9.9	17.6	13.2	16.3	17.3	14.8
Employers	7.0	5.8	4.0	5.0	16.2	3.1	6.3	7.0
Family/Friends	20.4	36.2	25.7	26.1	19.1	18.4	24.4	25.8
U.S. Labor Unions	9.9	4.3	4.0	3.4	1.5	3.1	5.5	4.7
Other Source	6.3	5.8	5.0	6.7	7.4	5.6	2.4	6.3

<sup>a</sup> Base: eligible respondents who indicated sources of information on candidates and issues in Question 10.

<sup>b</sup> Percentages for each source represent the proportion of those who answered the question who indicated that it was quite useful or very useful as a source of information.

Table 3.34

Useful Sources of Information on Candidates and Issues by Employment Status<sup>a</sup>  
(Percentages)

Information Sources	Retired (N=121)	Student (N=80)	Teacher (N=150)	Self- Employed (N=133)	U.S. Business (N=167)	Non-U.S. Business (N=235)	Not Employed (N=158)	Other (N=151)
U.S. Embassy/Consulate <sup>b</sup>	42.1	15.0	7.3	24.8	9.0	13.2	21.5	12.6
Defense Department	9.9	5.0	2.0	4.5	3.6	3.4	5.1	4.0
Other U.S. Agency	8.3	8.8	4.0	7.5	3.6	6.8	7.6	7.3
Political Party Hq.	15.7	26.3	11.3	23.3	21.6	26.8	30.4	20.5
U.S. News-Pub. in U.S.	46.3	63.8	68.0	67.7	68.3	70.6	60.1	66.9
U.S. News-Pub. Overseas	59.5	76.3	73.3	69.2	75.4	77.4	77.8	66.2
Non-U.S. News Media	18.2	40.0	32.0	30.1	25.1	29.8	26.6	26.5
Employers	7.4	5.0	2.0	5.3	6.0	1.3	4.4	4.0
Family/Friends	21.5	47.5	30.7	25.6	28.1	23.8	31.6	32.5
U.S. Labor Unions	8.3	6.3	2.7	3.8	3.6	2.6	4.4	6.0
Other Source	5.8	7.5	6.0	6.8	6.6	5.5	3.8	6.6

<sup>a</sup> Base: eligible respondents who indicated sources of information on candidates and issues in Question 10.

<sup>b</sup> Percentages for each source represent the proportion of those who answered the question who indicated that it was quite useful or very useful as a source of information.

and issues. Only a couple of differences stand out noticeably: retirees were considerably more likely to mention the U.S. embassy or consulate as a useful source of information on candidates and issues, and students were much more apt to mention family and friends as a useful information source.



December 1, 1978

Dear Fellow Citizen:

I am writing to ask for your personal cooperation and participation in the National Voting Survey.

APPENDIX A

SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE AND COVER LETTER

The names of the participants in the survey were selected by our statisticians and computerized system, using a completely random method. I assure you that your response will not be personally identifiable in any way. We have taken every precaution to assure your privacy and to assure that your response will be entirely anonymous. Please do not place your name or address on your questionnaire or the return envelope.

I would extremely appreciate your cooperation in completing and returning the attached questionnaire at the earliest possible time in the stamped envelope provided for your convenience. To ensure that your response is included in the survey, it should be mailed by December 15, 1978 or as soon thereafter as possible. January 31, 1979.

If you have questions regarding the questionnaire, please contact the Embassy or Consulate nearest you. This letter will be happy to answer your questions.

We need your help in making this survey a success. Thank you for joining in this effort to improve voting opportunities for American citizens abroad.

Sincerely,

*[Signature]*

Robert W. Day  
Voting Assistance Coordinator  
Office of Special Consular Affairs



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D. C. 20520

December 1, 1978

Dear Fellow Citizen:

I am writing to ask for your personal cooperation and participation in the Biennial Federal Voting Survey.

The Federal Voting Assistance Act is designed to assist U.S. citizens temporarily residing abroad in exercising their right to vote. We are helping conduct this post-election survey to assure that it reflects the experiences of all U.S. citizens living overseas, including those not employed by the Federal government. The results of the survey will be presented in a report to the President and the Congress. Also, the findings will be used to develop and improve the Voting Assistance Program.

The names of the participants in the survey were selected by our Embassies and Consulates abroad, using a completely random method. I assure you that your response will not personally involve you or commit you in any way. We have taken every precaution to guard your privacy and to ensure that your response will be entirely anonymous. Please do not place your name or address on your questionnaire or the return envelope.

I would sincerely appreciate your cooperation in completing and returning the attached questionnaire at the earliest possible time in the stamped envelope provided for your convenience. To ensure that your response is included in the survey, it should be mailed by ~~December 31, 1978~~ or as soon thereafter as possible. January 31, 1979

If you have questions regarding the questionnaire, Consular Officers at the Embassy or Consulate mailing you this letter will be happy to answer your questions.

We need your help in making this survey a success. Thank you for joining in this effort to improve voting opportunities for American citizens abroad.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Dry  
Voting Assistance Coordinator  
Office of Special Consular  
Services

**1978 POST-ELECTION VOTING SURVEY**

The Federal Voting Assistance Act requires that the President and the Congress of the United States be given a report following each general election dealing with the voting experiences of those individuals covered by the Act. Part of the next report is to be based on the findings from this sample survey. You have been selected at random to represent Americans residing outside the United States. Your timely response to this survey will help us to assure that the study truly represents the opinions and experiences of Americans living overseas. We thank you in advance for your participation. [This form is not intended for U.S. military personnel, Federal civilian employees, or their dependents. If you are in one of these categories please disregard this survey.]

**AUTHORITY:** The authority to solicit the information requested in this survey is contained in the Federal Voting Assistance Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1733cc-11).

**PURPOSE:** The information obtained is used to evaluate and improve the Federal Voting Assistance Program.

**USES:** The information will be used for research and analysis purposes only. No individual identifying data will be retained after completion and return of the survey. This survey is being conducted by the Human Resources Research Organization for the Federal Voting Assistance Program.

**EFFECTS OF NON-DISCLOSURE:** Participation in the survey is voluntary. No penalty will be imposed for failure to respond to any particular question.

**DO NOT MARK  
IN THIS SPACE**

0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9
1	2	3	4	A

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR MARKING**

Your responses will be read by an optical mark reader. Please observe the following rules to assure that your answers will be correctly read.

- Use only a soft lead pencil (a standard No. 2 pencil is ideal).
- Make heavy marks that fill the circle.
- Erase cleanly any answer you wish to change.
- Make no stray markings of any kind.
- Where write-in responses are necessary, please confine your writing to the limits of the lines provided.
- Where numbers are called for in an answer, as in questions 2, 7, 8, and 11, first write your answer in the boxes provided and then fill in the circles underneath which represent the numbers you have placed in the boxes.

**EXAMPLE A:**

How old were you on 7 November 1978?

2	1
0	0
1	0
0	0

Years

**EXAMPLE B:**

Will marks made with ballpoint pen or felt-tip pen be properly read?

☐ Yes ☒ No



1. Were you a United States citizen on 7 November 1978?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

2. How old were you on 7 November 1978?

Years	
0	9
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	7
8	8
9	9

3. Did you vote in the November 1978 general election?

- ☐ Yes, by absentee ballot  
☐ Yes, in person at the polls  
☐ No

Questions 4 through 8 refer to the Federal Post Card Application for Absentee Ballot (FPCA). A facsimile is shown below for your reference.

FILL OUT BOTH SIDES OF THE CARD	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"> <small>FREE OF U. S. POSTAGE NECESSARY IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES</small> </div>	
<b>OFFICIAL ELECTION BALLOTING MATERIAL—VIA AIR MAIL</b>	
To: _____	

4. If you requested an absentee ballot, which application form did you use? (Mark one)

- ☐ Does not apply—I did not request an absentee ballot  
☐ Federal Post Card Application For Absentee Ballot (FPCA)  
☐ Other written request

5. If you used the Federal Post Card Application For Absentee Ballot (FPCA), where did you obtain it? (Mark one)

- ☐ Does not apply—I did not use the FPCA  
☐ Embassy or Consulate  
☐ U.S. Military Installation  
☐ My employer  
☐ Other source \_\_\_\_\_

(List source)

6. From which state or territory did you request an absentee ballot for the 1978 general election?

- ☐ Does not apply—I did not request an absentee ballot

I requested an absentee ballot from:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Alabama              | <input type="radio"/> Montana               |
| <input type="radio"/> Alaska               | <input type="radio"/> Nebraska              |
| <input type="radio"/> Arizona              | <input type="radio"/> Nevada                |
| <input type="radio"/> Arkansas             | <input type="radio"/> New Hampshire         |
| <input type="radio"/> California           | <input type="radio"/> New Jersey            |
| <input type="radio"/> Colorado             | <input type="radio"/> New Mexico            |
| <input type="radio"/> Connecticut          | <input type="radio"/> New York              |
| <input type="radio"/> Delaware             | <input type="radio"/> North Carolina        |
| <input type="radio"/> District of Columbia | <input type="radio"/> North Dakota          |
| <input type="radio"/> Florida              | <input type="radio"/> Ohio                  |
| <input type="radio"/> Georgia              | <input type="radio"/> Oklahoma              |
| <input type="radio"/> Guam                 | <input type="radio"/> Oregon                |
| <input type="radio"/> Hawaii               | <input type="radio"/> Pennsylvania          |
| <input type="radio"/> Idaho                | <input type="radio"/> Rhode Island          |
| <input type="radio"/> Illinois             | <input type="radio"/> South Carolina        |
| <input type="radio"/> Indiana              | <input type="radio"/> South Dakota          |
| <input type="radio"/> Iowa                 | <input type="radio"/> Tennessee             |
| <input type="radio"/> Kansas               | <input type="radio"/> Texas                 |
| <input type="radio"/> Kentucky             | <input type="radio"/> Utah                  |
| <input type="radio"/> Louisiana            | <input type="radio"/> Vermont               |
| <input type="radio"/> Maine                | <input type="radio"/> Virginia              |
| <input type="radio"/> Maryland             | <input type="radio"/> Virgin Islands (U.S.) |
| <input type="radio"/> Massachusetts        | <input type="radio"/> Washington            |
| <input type="radio"/> Michigan             | <input type="radio"/> West Virginia         |
| <input type="radio"/> Minnesota            | <input type="radio"/> Wisconsin             |
| <input type="radio"/> Mississippi          | <input type="radio"/> Wyoming               |
| <input type="radio"/> Missouri             |   |

7. If you requested an absentee ballot for the general election, please indicate in the spaces provided below: a) when you sent your request, and b) when you received your ballot. (Give the month and day—use your best guess if you are not sure.)

- ☐ Does not apply—I did not request an absentee ballot.

I sent my request on:

MONTH		DAY	
0	9	0	9
1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8

- ☐ I didn't receive a ballot even though I requested one

I received my ballot on:

MONTH		DAY	
0	9	0	9
1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8

8. If you received an absentee ballot, when did you return the completed ballot? (Give the month and day—use your best guess if you are not sure.)

- ☐ Does not apply—  
I did not request an absentee ballot.
- ☐ Does not apply—  
I requested but did not receive an absentee ballot.
- ☐ Does not apply—  
I received a ballot but did not return it.

☐ I completed and returned my ballot on: →

MONTH		DAY	
9	9	9	9
1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9

BE SURE TO ANSWER QUESTION 9.

9. If you did not vote in the November 1978 general election, please indicate the extent to which each of the following reasons applies to you.

- ☐ Does not apply—I voted.

	None	A Little	Some	Fairly Much	Very Much
Did not know about the election . . .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Not interested in American politics or the election . . . . .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Had no candidate preference . . . . .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Believed my vote would not matter . . . . .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Possible effect of voting on Federal or State income tax obligation . . . . .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lacked information on voting procedures . . . . .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
No State of legal residence for voting . . . . .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other reasons (Please list) _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
_____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. How would you rate each of the following as a source of information about voting procedures and about candidates and issues for the 1978 general election? (For each source, mark one response for Voting Procedures and one for Candidates and Issues.)

	Voting Procedures				Candidates and Issues			
	Not At All Useful	Somewhat Useful	Quite Useful	Very Useful	Not At All Useful	Somewhat Useful	Quite Useful	Very Useful
U.S. Embassy/Consulate . . . . .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
U.S. Department of Defense . . . . .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other U.S. Government Agencies . . . . .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
U.S. Political Party Headquarters . . . . .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
U.S. Newspapers/Magazines published outside U.S. . . . .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
U.S. Newspapers/Magazines published within U.S. . . . .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Non-U.S. Newspapers/Magazines . . . . .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Employers . . . . .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family/Friends . . . . .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
U.S. Labor Unions . . . . .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other sources (Please list) _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
_____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



11. How many years have you lived away from the U.S.?

Years

0	0
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	7
8	8
9	9

12. How would you describe your likelihood of returning to the U.S. to live? (Mark one)

- ☐ I definitely will return  
☐ I probably will return  
☐ I am undecided about returning  
☐ I probably will not return  
☐ I definitely will not return

13. Which one of the following best describes your employment status on 7 November 1978? (Mark one)

- ☐ Retired  
☐ Student  
☐ Teacher  
☐ Self-employed  
☐ U.S. business  
☐ Non-U.S. business  
☐ Not employed  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

(Please specify)

14. How interested were you in the 1978 U.S. elections?

- ☐ Very interested (Frequently follow current events and political news)  
☐ Somewhat interested (Occasionally follow current events and political news)  
☐ Not interested (Rarely or never follow current events and political news)

15. How many dependents (including spouse) who reside with you were eligible to vote in the November 1978 election? (Do not include yourself)

- ☐ None  
☐ 1  
☐ 2  
☐ 3  
☐ 4  
☐ 5  
☐ 6  
☐ 7  
☐ 8  
☐ 9 or more

16. How many of the dependents (including spouse) residing with you, who were eligible to vote in the November 1978 general election, did vote? (Do not include yourself)

- ☐ Does not apply — none were eligible  
☐ Does not apply — I do not have any  
☐ None  
☐ 1  
☐ 2  
☐ 3  
☐ 4  
☐ 5  
☐ 6  
☐ 7  
☐ 8  
☐ 9 or more

17. In which country are you currently residing?

- ☐ Australia  
☐ Austria  
☐ Bahamas  
☐ Belgium  
☐ Brazil  
☐ Canada  
☐ Colombia  
☐ Costa Rica  
☐ Denmark  
☐ Dominican Republic  
☐ France  
☐ Germany  
☐ Greece  
☐ Guatemala  
☐ Honduras  
☐ Hong Kong  
☐ Indonesia  
☐ Iran  
☐ Ireland  
☐ Israel  
☐ Italy  
☐ Jamaica  
☐ Japan  
☐ Kenya  
☐ Korea  
☐ Mexico  
☐ Netherlands  
☐ Norway  
☐ Peru  
☐ Philippines  
☐ Poland  
☐ Portugal  
☐ Saudi Arabia  
☐ Singapore  
☐ South Africa  
☐ Spain  
☐ Sweden  
☐ Thailand  
☐ Taiwan  
☐ United Kingdom  
☐ Venezuela  
☐ Other (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_



1978 POST-ELECTION VOTING SURVEY  
INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SURVEY OF NON-FEDERALLY  
EMPLOYED CIVILIANS LIVING OVERSEAS

APPENDIX B

SAMPLING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE  
1978 POST-ELECTION VOTING SURVEY (FORM B)

The Federal Voting Assistance Act of 1975, as amended (52 U.S.C. 11301-11305), requires the Department of Defense to assist in collecting data on the effectiveness of the voting assistance program. The Act requires that the data be collected from all categories of American citizens who vote through the overseas process, including military personnel, civilian employees of the United States Government, and non-Federally employed U.S. citizens. This information is routinely collected through a biennial, post-election survey. Results from this survey are used to determine the need for additional assistance and to provide feedback to the overseas voting assistance program.

The survey of non-Federally employed U.S. citizens living overseas is administered by the State Department through its overseas and consular offices. This year, 1978, the survey will be administered by the State Department's Office of Overseas Voting Assistance. The survey will be conducted in two phases. The first phase will be a random selection of U.S. citizens living overseas. The second phase will be a random selection of U.S. citizens living in the United States who are currently overseas.

Each embassy/consulate should fill out and return the following random selection procedure:

1. Divide the number of registered U.S. citizens in the country by the country's assigned quota. The result will be your sampling fraction.
2. Count down from the top of the list of registered U.S. citizens beginning with a random number from the list below and select every 50th person. For example, if you had 1,000 registered U.S. citizens and a quota of 20, your sampling fraction would be 1/20. Beginning with the 50th person on the list (the random number from the list below), you would select every 50th person from the list of registered citizens. If you had 1,000 registered U.S. citizens and a quota of 20, you would select every 50th person from the list of registered citizens. If you had 1,000 registered U.S. citizens and a quota of 20, you would select every 50th person from the list of registered citizens.

Random Numbers for Initial Selection Fraction

71	24
23	40
11	17
34	22

1978 POST-ELECTION VOTING SURVEY:  
INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SURVEY OF NON-FEDERALLY  
EMPLOYED CIVILIANS LIVING OVERSEAS

The Federal Voting Assistance Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1733cc-1733cc-26), requires the Department of Defense as executive agent to collect data on the effectiveness of programs designed to assist absentee voters. The Act requires input from all categories of Americans who vote through the absentee process, including military personnel, civilian employees of the United States Government, and non-Federally employed U.S. citizens. This information is routinely collected through a biennial, post-election survey. Results from this survey are used to determine the need for modifications (if any) in Federal assistance provided absentee voters.

The survey of non-Federally employed U.S. Citizens living overseas is administered by the State Department through its embassies and consulates. This year, 7,500 U.S. citizens living in 41 countries will be included in the survey sample. The U.S. embassy or consulate for each country included in the study will be responsible for drawing its quota of U.S. citizens for the sample (see the attached sheet for the list of countries and quotas).

Each embassy/consulate should fill its quota using the following random selection procedure:

1. Divide the number of registered U.S. citizens in the country by the country's assigned quota. The result will be your sampling fraction,  $N$ .

2. Count through your file of registered U.S. citizens beginning with a random number from the list below and select every  $N$ th person. For example, if you had 2730 registered U.S. citizens and a quota of 78, your sampling fraction would be 35. Beginning with, say, the eleventh person (11 was taken from the random number list below), you would select him/her, then every 35th person thereafter (46, 81, 116, 151, etc.) until you have gone through your list of registered citizens. You should then have your entire quota.

Random Numbers for Initial Selection Point

71	28
53	95
11	77
80	68

3. If for any reason some of those selected have to be eliminated from the sample, choose another random number from the list and repeat the process in step 2 until you have replaced those eliminated.

Once you have selected your quota, mail to each person selected a questionnaire, a State Department cover letter, and a 9x12 return envelope. You will have to place sufficient postage on each return envelope to allow first class mail delivery back to the United States.

If you have any questions about this requirement, please contact Mr. Robert Dry at the Office of Special Consular Affairs.



1978 Post-Election Absentee Voting Survey  
Sites and Quotas for Sample of U.S. Citizens Living Overseas

<u>Country</u>	<u>U.S. Population</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Quota</u>
Canada	262,500	20.7	1,552
Mexico	162,387	12.8	960
United Kingdom	88,160	6.9	521
Italy	83,264	6.6	492
Germany	78,929	6.2	466
Israel	58,000	4.6	342
Greece	43,700	3.4	258
Iran	40,061	3.2	237
Spain	37,052	2.9	219
Brazil	31,764	2.5	188
France	30,700	2.4	181
Philippines	28,200	2.2	167
Australia	27,653	2.2	163
Belgium	27,132	2.1	160
Japan	22,716	1.8	134
Venezuela	22,000	1.7	130
Saudi Arabia	21,000	1.7	124
Norway	14,000	1.1	83
Dominican Republic	13,829	1.1	82
Ireland	13,510	1.1	80
Colombia	13,177	1.0	78
Costa Rica	12,010	0.9	71
Austria	10,990	0.9	65
Netherlands	10,770	0.8	64
Jamaica	10,000	0.8	59
Peru	9,600	0.8	57
Guatemala	9,550	0.8	56
Thailand	9,299	0.7	55
Poland	7,539	0.6	45
Indonesia	7,457	0.6	44
Taiwan	6,400	0.5	38
Hong Kong	6,376	0.5	38
Rep. of South Africa	6,246	0.5	37
Singapore	6,000	0.5	35
Sweden	5,970	0.5	35
Korea	5,716	0.5	34
Bahamas	5,500	0.4	33
Honduras	5,000	0.4	30
Portugal	5,000	0.4	30
Kenya	4,900	0.4	29
Denmark	4,800	0.4	28
	1,268,857		7,500